

WITH THE LARK.

Night is for sorrow and dawn is for joy.
Chasing the troubles that fret and annoy;
Darkness for sighing and daylight for song—
Cheery and chaste the strain, heartfelt
and strong.
All the night through, though I moan in
the dark,
I wake in the morning to sing with the
lark.

Deep in the midnight, the rain whips the
leaves,
Softly and sadly the wood-spirit grieves.
But when the first hue of dawn tints the
sky,
I shall shake out my wings like the birds
and be dry;
And though, like the rain drops, I grieved
through the dark,
I shall wake in the morning to sing with the
lark.

On the high hills of Heaven, some morn-
ing to be,
When the rain shall not grieve thro' the
leaves of the tree,
There my heart shall not grieve for the pain
I have known,
For my hand shall be clasped in the hand
of my own;
And though life has been hard and death's
pathway been dark,
I shall wake in the morning to sing with
the lark!

—Paul Dunbar, in Outlook.



MORACE ADAMSLEY YACHELL.
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CHAPTER III.—CONTINUED.

She liked to sit upon the veranda over-
looking the ocean. On her face was re-
flected the placidity of the waters; in
her heart, I knew, was the restlessness
of the tides. Indeed, there was a smack
of the salt sea about the girl, of the sea
in all its moods and tenses. Her blood
ebbed and flowed beneath the freshest
skin; on her lips, with the glimmer of
teeth white as foam between their
curves, was the many-twinkling smile,
in her eyes an enchanting shimmer.
One could swear that those same eyes
would flash fiercely in time of storm
and stress, and that the red lips, like
breakers, would curl angrily. I hate a
tepid temperament.

"Mr. Livingston"—how softly the syl-
lables of my name dropped from her
mouth—"which do you prefer, action
or inaction, peace or war?"

"Peace, Miss Nancy, at any price. I
push my little go-cart along the lines
of least resistance."

"I thought men"—she emphasized
the word—"preferred war."

"Nowadays they leave that to wom-
en."

"But the love of fighting, of adven-
ture, is natural to man?"

"To uncivilized man, yes."

"Strip a man," she cried, with a touch
of scorn, "of the rags we call manners,
take from him the deference which he
pays to the opinion of society, and what
do you find?"

"Sometimes, a beast."

"Ah!" She drew in her breath with a
pretty sigh.

"Sometimes, a god."

"Does he teach small boys?" she
asked, demurely. "Confess, now, Mr.
Livingston, you are something of a
rascal. You ought to be fighting—with
your pen, I mean; slaying monsters,
like Hercules; and instead you are—"

"Talking to Omphale. There is time
or everything."

"Tell me"—she spoke coaxingly—"your
true reason for coming here. Don't
attempt to deceive me. I can dis-
tinguish truth from falsehood."

"What eyes you must have! How do
you do it?"

"It's very simple. Truth once seen
is never forgotten; the poor dear, you
emember, wears no clothes—that's why
he lives at the bottom of a well; but
alcohol is tricked out in the latest
fashion."

"And you have met truth face to
face?"

"I live with my mother."

It was prettily said, but it set me to
thinking; and thought, like falsehood,
has many costumes in her wardrobe.
Where did Miss Nancy learn to talk?
Her mother, sweet, gentle soul, was no
conversationalist; her father, con-
founding him, was a money-grabber. The
girl must be still in her teens; but her
shrewdness and wit amazed me.

"No man," I observed, "incriminates
himself. The reason of my presence here
must remain for the present at the
bottom of the well. But beware; I have
found out your besetting sin."

She looked at me defiantly.

"I don't believe it."

"A morbid love of excitement."

"Wretch! You have laid your finger
upon a tender spot. Yes, I am fond of
excitement. The deadly dullness of my
life till quite lately has driven me
nearly crazy. I have the dramatic in-
stinct strong in me. Heaven knows
where I got it, but I can't be rid of it.
And my dramatic instinct tells me that
there is some mystery here, in this
peaceful house, where you would least
expect it; and you, Mr. Livingston, are
mixed up with this mystery. There,
it's out at last."

Poor child, how I pitied her!

"Miss Nancy," I said, earnestly, "the
wise old Greeks had a word which we
translate wrongly bitter-sweet. It
should be sweet-bitter, for the bitter-
ness comes last and remains. If you
could realize how sweet and fragrant
your present life is, you would be thank-
fully content. This is really fairland,
if you only knew it, but the beauty of
it will never come home to you till
you have left it."

"Do you mean," she said, slowly,
"that the gratification of my curiosity
may drive me from Eden? Very well;
I take the hint."

At the end of the month Mrs. Gerard
requested a private interview. Her face,
I remarked, wore a troubled expres-
sion, and she twisted her slender fingers,
a sure sign of nervousness.

"I perceive," she began, softly, "that
you are exploring a new country, Mr.
Livingston. The French call it le pays
du tendre."

I was completely taken aback. I am
not a man who wears his heart upon his
sleeve, and I had taken infinite pains
to keep that unruly organ out of sight.

"Your silence," she continued, "con-
firms my fears. Let me entreat you
to turn back before it is too late."

"Turn back!" I ejaculated. "Mrs.
Gerard, this is no walking tour. I am
traveling—by express."

"It is better to walk," she said, coldly.
I could tell by her tone that she was
provoked.

"It is better to crawl," I replied; "but
when a man is traveling sixty miles an
hour it is dangerous to leave the train."

"But you must leave the train—at
once."

"And break my neck—my heart, I
mean."

"Hearts do not break," she mur-
mured; "at least, not the hearts of
men."

"Mrs. Gerard, you are cruel. Have
you anything against me?"

"No, no; but Nancy is not, as—as
you think, the daughter of Mr. Gerard.
Her father—the last words were al-
most inaudible—"is Edgar Burling-
ton."

I must have been blind not to have
discovered this fact for myself. How
could it account for, physically and
intellectually! From him she inherited
those brilliant eyes; from him, the
power of speech, the torrens dicendi
copula. And what else?

I took the hand of the poor lady be-
side me, and kissed it.

"I love her," I whispered. "For her-
self, first, and secondly, because she is
your daughter."

"Nancy," said Mrs. Gerard, in frozen
tones, "can never marry. I have given
her an education that is given to few
girls. She has abundant material for
happiness outside of marriage, which at
best is so often a failure. Her books,
her music, her absorbing interest in
humanity, these must fill her life."

"Why? Why?"

"Her father." The fear stamped upon
her face twisted my heartstrings; but
there was a quality in it conspicuously
absent from the terror of Mark Gerard.
This was no coward sentiment. The
awful dread was not for self, but for
others. "Her father, as you know, is a
dangerous madman; the taint of in-
sanity is in poor Nancy's veins."

"I don't care a rap," I answered. "I
love her."

"Mr. Livingston, do you force me to
tell the truth to Nancy?"

"You could not be so cruel; and, be-
sides, I—I have no reason to suppose
that she returns my love. I have taken
no advantage of my position. I have—"

"You must leave the cottage to-mor-
row."

"Leave?" I stammered. The word
stuck in my throat.

We were sitting in the parlor. Mrs.
Gerard, feeling that further conversa-
tion was intolerable, rose from her
chair and walked slowly from the room.
Through the window I caught a glimpse
of her graceful figure as she paced down
the garden path. Was Nancy destined
to flit from my life in some such
abrupt fashion? Not while I, Hugo Liv-
ingston, had life and limbs to pursue.

I waited a couple of minutes, choking
my emotion, then I followed. I found
her at the end of the walk, where a flight
of steps led to the sands. She stood
shading her eyes from the setting sun,
her glance straying southward. I
noted, in the mid-distance, a man walk-
ing rapidly, probably Demetrius, for
he was tall and well proportioned.
Strangers frequently passed the house
(the sands at low tide were a public
highway); and I wondered vaguely
what possible interest this pedestrian
challenged. Mrs. Gerard ignored me
entirely. She stared intently at the ap-
proaching man.

I touched her arm.

"Mrs. Gerard, I pity you profoundly;
but if I am willing to take the chances,
if—"

"Hush!" she cried, wildly. "In the
name of Heaven, who is that?"

She pointed dramatically at the figure
striding swiftly along the sands.

"Some stranger," I murmured. "Mrs.
Gerard, you are overwrought; let me
take you back to the house."

"It is he," she said, trembling. "It is
Edgar Burlington. He has found me at
last."

CHAPTER IV.

She fled homeward, seeking sanctu-
ary like some hunted creature. My first
impulse was to follow and console, but
duty and curiosity nailed me to the
spot. From the shadow of the cypress
fence I could see Burlington, myself
unseen. He strode past, looking
neither to the right nor to the left,
walking as a man walks when he has
his goal in sight. I waited, thinking
hard; then I returned to the house.

Nancy met me as I passed the thresh-
old. Her sweet face was puckered and
lined by anxiety. "Mother," she gasped,
"is so ill. Please come to her at once. I
am frightened."

I entered the parlor. Upon the couch
lay Mrs. Gerard. Her eyes were closed;
her breath came and went in short
gasps; her pulse was rapid and feeble.
At my suggestion Nancy left the room
to procure some aromatic spirits of am-
monia. Before she returned Mrs. Ger-
ard opened her eyes.

"Mark," she murmured, faintly—"where
is he? This faintness will pass;
but my child—Mr. Livingston, find my
child."

I humored her instantly, fearing hys-
teria. The sight of the lad, I reflected,
would still her poor fluttering heart
more quickly than all the drugs in
Christendom. Mark, of course, was with
Demetrius. I had left the two at the
back of the house, building a small
sloop upon plans furnished by me. The
Greek was no mean mechanic, and Mark
had proved an enthusiastic apprentice.

Demetrius I found busily at work, but
the boy was not with him.

The impassivity of the Greek, as I re-

cited the facts, annoyed me. He lei-
suredly assumed coat and waistcoat and
proceeded to put away his tools.

"Don't alarm yourself, sir; I can find
Mr. Mark. He is around somewhere."

"Somewhere! Of course; but where?"

"He ran down to the sands to get
some fresh water for his aquarium."

"The sands! Good God, man, and we
are standing here! Follow me."

I ran at top speed to the water's edge.
Yes, he had left his bucket and wan-
dered north, searching, probably, for
shells in the masses of seagrass and
kelp which a recent storm had flung
upon the shore. I noted his footprints
in the wet sand, and close beside them
the large, deeply-indented tracks of
Burlington.

Perdition! What if I arrived too
late?

To the south the sands stretched
widely flat for miles, a superb high-
way, fringed with low sand dunes; to
the north were the cliffs, jutting prom-
ontories of red sandstone, honey-
combed with caves. These caves could
be entered only at the lowest tides, and
were favorite haunts of the bog.
In their dim recesses were exquisite
medusae, pink, purple and green, star-
fish, echinoderms, monstrous abalones
and other marvels. One cavern, to
which the Portuguese had given the
melodramatic title Pirates' cave, had a
mighty fascination for Mark. He
listened to the yarns of the ancient
mariners and believed implicitly, with
the glorious faith of youth, that chests
of doubloons, dead men's bones and
other relics of Spanish buccaners were
awaiting discovery. Upon the Pacific
slope, especially in springtime, tidal
waves are not infrequent and Mark had
received strict orders from his mother
never to venture alone into the caves.
I make no doubt that he ignored these
commands whenever opportunity
served.

As I ran, vagabond thoughts whirled
like dervishes through my brain. I
recalled the proverbial patience and
cunning of madmen. Burlington, armed
with powerful field glasses, must have
watched and waited (possibly for a
full month) for this very chance. From
my knowledge of the man I shuddered
to think what foul use he would make
of it.

When I reached the end of the sand I
paused. A cove was directly in front of
me—in fact, a succession of coves, shel-
tered, each one, by frowning headlands.
At high tide these coves were inaccessible
from the shore; and already the waters
were lapping idly at the base of the
cliffs. Seagulls screamed overhead.
The wet sand was blood-red with sun-
set reflections. The sun itself was be-

hind the horizon, the day dying fast
and the short spring twilight stealing
swiftly from landward.

Scrambling across the rocks, I
scanned anxiously the semicircular
cove in front of me. No human being
was in sight. Hurrying on, I struck
again the sand, and on it the footprints.
These I followed to the mouth of the
Pirates' cave. There—where the pebbles
hid the tracks—the spoor was lost.

My worst suspicions were realized.

I listened intently for the murmur of
voices. Then, slipping off my shoes, I
stepped noiselessly forward. My right
hand gripped the stock of a pistol
which (at the urgent request of Gerard)
I carried habitually in my pocket. The
cave had two chambers, an inner and
an outer, the latter lighted by a small
aperture in the roof. I remembered,
with a sudden gust of hope, that it was
possible to crawl through this aperture
and regain the cliffs above. I had per-
formed this feat myself at much per-
sonal inconvenience, but Mark made lit-
tle of it. Here, then, was a loophole of
escape.

The silence, accentuated by the drip
and trickle of water, was horrible. A
more appropriate stage setting for a
tragedy could scarcely be conceived.
The dank walls, slimy with fungoid
growth, harbored no echo. What
nymph, indeed, would haunt so fearful
a grot? The pools of water courted
blood-stained hands. And in the deep
crannies and fissures were hiding places
for a host of victims.

I am no coward, but horror smote me
in the face.

As I glided in the shadows to the en-
trance of the inner chamber I heard a
peculiar noise—a fretting of garments
against rocks. Pistol in hand, I plunged
forward. High up, crawling painfully
across jagged rocks, was Burlington;
but where was the boy?

"Halt!" I cried, sternly.

The sound of my own voice startled
me; and it startled the madman above.
He turned suddenly, grasped helplessly
at the slimy walls, lost his hold and
crashed headlong to my feet. He had
fallen in the most awkward possible
place, a rift between two rocks. For
the moment every feeling was ban-
ished save that of pity; but how to ex-
tricate him passed my understanding.
He lay senseless upon his back. The
trapezius muscles had borne the brunt
of the shock and saved him a broken
neck; but in the nature of things he
must have suffered very grave internal
injuries. But the catastrophe added
fuel to the flames of my anxiety on
Mark's account. Had he escaped
through the hole in the roof? Or—I
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